

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 16, 1999 LB 179

important bill, and I could name some others. We're in several areas of this and the reason I bring it up, hopefully, as much for those outside listening, this is where our budgets get increased, and those percents, even though we hold the line on everyday operating, it's these sorts of issues that expand. And I know Senator Coordsen went through that, but when we give homestead exemptions, that increases state spending. When we give homestead exemptions, under our present law, we increase state spending. There's a direct relationship. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Further discussion? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, let me just discuss with Senator Wickersham, if I may, a portion of the disability section. And, again, I preference (sic) my remarks by saying in a perfect world, even in a much less than perfect world, I'm willing to spend money on a number of these things, including the broadening of this definition insofar as the broadening of the definition encompasses people who have a real need. But I want to talk about the specific language here just to illustrate, I think, some of the problems separating need from "nonneed", and in order to do that I want to be sure I, first of all, understand how this definition is to be applied. But for those of you who would like to follow, it's a definition that starts on line 19 of page 6 of the committee amendment. On line 19, page 6 of the committee amendment you'll see it has a sub (b) there and it starts "individuals who" and then when you flip the page you read the expanded definition of "disability" that is the cause for the 0.8 million or 1.7 million of additional...of additional cost in this section of the bill, depending on what that figure may turn out to be. But those who are going to benefit now are individuals who have a permanent physical disability, a permanent physical disability, or...or who have lost all mobility such as to preclude locomotion without the regular use of a mechanical aid or prostheses. Our natural tendency is to be enormously sympathetic for anyone who has had this kind of experience with this kind of result. But that doesn't change the question of whether that person may or may not be in need of this particular exemption. And I would mention to you the United States Senator from Nebraska who meets this qualification